

ROLE OF EDUCATION IN ENHANCING AIDS AWARENESS

Mrs Simmi Singh
Research Scholar, Jayoti Vidyapeeth Women's University
Dr Manju Sharma
Dean Education, Jayoti Vidyapeeth Women's University

Abstract

AIDS, acquired immune-deficiency syndrome is caused by a retrovirus called human immune-deficiency virus (HIV). It is a fatal illness and if a person is infected once there is no cure, a number of people die every day from this disease. This disease not only affects health but leaves its imprint on social, psychological and economic well being of infected person. The mode of transmission of the virus is by exchange of body fluids of infected person to health person. Adolescents who are in a transition stage of life are supposed to be most vulnerable to this disease. Educating the youth and creating awareness regarding their risky behaviour is helpful in preventing the spread of virus. Schools play a vital in modifying the behaviour of youth and providing guidelines to lead a healthy life. Education is cost effective and acts as vaccine against this disease. The awareness campaign of NACP with the formation of National Council on AIDS that has mainstreamed HIV prevention activities in different organizations. In order to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, the Government of India has been implementing various programs by involving several national and international agencies, and organizing workshops, seminars along with free services (laboratories, ART centers, free medicine) under National AIDS Control Program. The educational programs on HIV/AIDS awareness in schools will enhance the awareness; the teacher must give positive directions to the students by understanding the scientific basis of knowledge. It becomes important for the teacher to work in positive direction and bring desired changes in society.

Introduction

HIV/AIDS was first recognized in the year 1981 and had reported to kill 25 million people. As per historical record it has been considered as one of the most destructive epidemics. Every day the number of people infected by this disease is over 6800 and over 5700 die from this disease because of inadequate access to HIV treatment and prevention services. The impact of HIV/AIDS in society is to a great extent as an illness and as a source of discrimination. Economic impact to a large extent is also one of the factors of this disease. There are many misconceptions about HIV/AIDS, such as the belief that it can be transmitted by casual non-sexual contact. There are many controversies regarding this disease, also involving religion including the Catholic Church's position not to support the condom use as prevention. It has attracted international political as well as medical attention as a result large-scale funding has been allotted since it has been identified in 1980.

Education: A cost-effective way to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS:

Providing requisite education and knowledge to students, protects them as they reach vulnerable age. Educating the youth about the mode of spread of disease is also helpful in checking the risky practices of transmission. Educating adolescent girls and young women also minimizes the spread. Thus, education is the cost-effective of prevention and yields maximum return on its investment.

Role of education in fighting HIV/AIDS

Adolescents living with AIDS do not get proper care and also do not receive adequate support, many young people do not know how to protect themselves and lack Awareness. The World AIDS Day was a mark to look into education for creating AIDS awareness in youth especially of girls. Girl's education will help in saving lives of many by improving their knowledge of HIV/AIDS.

Educations help Adolescents to know more about HIV/AIDS and are more likely to get themselves tested. Education is also helpful in removing discrimination against HIV positive patients which can prevent them from dropping from school.

Role of Schools in Preventing HIV

Growing disregard and rejection of traditional values, the young adolescent are setting up their own code of ethics and a new set of morals in matters of sex, love, dating and life in general. It becomes the duty of schools, educators to study such behaviour patterns and find solution. Schools are the places which can help and provide solutions by modifying behaviour of students. Schools are the centres that not only promote education but also play a crucial role in promoting the safety of the youth as well as their health. Schools promote healthy lifestyles of the students by making them learn about the dangers of unhealthy behaviour and to practice skills that promote healthy lifestyle of the students by making them learn about the dangers of unhealthy behaviours and to practice skills that promote a healthy lifestyle. Students of all grades in large numbers go to schools every day; the adolescents are helped by the school in a unique way which reduces their risk for HIV by adopting appropriate behaviour.

Awareness Rising

HIV infection is preventable through awareness rising, awareness rising about its occurrence and speed is very significant in protecting the people from the epidemic. It is for this reason that the National AIDS Control Programme lays maximum emphasis on the widespread reach of information, education and communication on HIV/AIDS prevention. A key thrust area of the National AIDS Control Programme is a prevention strategy by changing the behaviour enhancing knowledge and modifying attitude by laying emphasis on widespread reach of information, education and communication.

Focusing on the Vulnerable

Addressing the vulnerable section, awareness rising brings positive modification of attitude and crafted behaviour. Awareness enhancing programmes promotes prevention and reaches to 80 percent of the high risk group and also 95 percent of the young people. A big magnification has been received to the awareness campaign of NACP with the formation of National Council on AIDS that has mainstreamed HIV prevention activities in different organizations.

The Programme focuses on covering about four million high risk groups(commercial sex workers, injecting drug users, homosexuals) vulnerable population also covers truck drivers, migrants and large number of women and men in general with sound information on various aspects of vulnerability of HIV infection.

School Programmes to Enhance AIDS Awareness

In Indian society and culture it becomes difficult to talk about sex outside marriage and in schools as such talks are not accepted. It becomes important to include educational programmes that encourage developing life skills which help youth in making healthy life choices.

Integrated Approach of School Subjects and Sex Education

It is often based on approach that Sex Education can be dealt only in a Biology Class. If the need for AIDS Awareness to be developed in schools and class-rooms, it is imperative that sexual learning becomes the responsibility of every teacher. It can be integrated with different school subjects such as Science, Social Studies, and Languages. In addition to this basic knowledge of STD can be given to students in a simple way.

Significance and need of education in HIV/AIDS awareness:

HIV/AIDS epidemic can only be reversed by taking sustainable measures for preventing HIV infection. Preventive interventions, based on various behaviour change theories and models are a key component in the education system. In order to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, the Government of India has been implementing various programs by involving several national and international agencies, and organizing workshops, seminars along with free services (laboratories, ART centres, free medicine) under National AIDS Control Program. It is important to understand the importance of awareness of HIV/AIDS and its education programs with various stakeholders by conducting diverse assessments. Role of teachers, Anganwadi Services and ASHA workers has been important as they bring about awareness.

Conclusion:

The educational programs on HIV/AIDS awareness in schools will enhance the awareness in school students. It will be helpful in understanding the nature and spread of disease in a scientific way. The acquired knowledge about the disease and its nature will be helpful for the students in developing healthy behaviour and values. In every society and in every period, the aim of education is to develop good and useful citizens who positively contribute to welfare and progress of the society. In this regard the most important contribution is that of the teacher, the teacher must make innovations, give positive directions to the students by understanding the scientific basis of knowledge. It becomes important for the teacher to understand the psychological developmental demands of students and give ideal solutions for specific situations.

References:

- Impact of health education on awareness of HIV/AIDS among school children in rural West Bengal, India. Sulagna Das, Amiya Das, Aparajita Dasgupta.
- How Education Plays a Key Role in the fight against AIDS.
- [www.globalpartnership.org>blog](http://www.globalpartnership.org/blog)
- Relationship between education and HIV/AIDS Wikipedia.
- Implementation and influence of HIV/AIDS education programs in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra and an analytical study, Mayur S. Pujari, <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/209655>
- Adolescent and School Health. www.cdc.gov/hiv/groups/age.
- Awareness Rising, National AIDS Control Organisation. naco.gov.in/awareness-1
- Creating awareness about HIV/AIDS, the only solution. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>.
- HIV/AIDS.Wikipedia.